



# Fieldwork for all

**W**hether it's in your local region or in an exotic, far-flung destination, fieldwork can be both inspirational and informative. It's a great way to see geography come to life and to experience and enjoy a wide range of environments. It's also a key way in which geographers and other research scientists advance our understanding of our world.

What's more, fieldwork can be enjoyed by anyone, from formal experiences as part of field research or as part of a student's education through to the less-formal experiences we all have while travelling or even walking around our local area. And it doesn't just offer a great platform to observe and understand the world around us, it can also help to develop our skills and confidence, and to inform our views on other peoples and cultures, and on local social, political and environmental issues.

Encouragement and support for people to get involved in fieldwork pervades the Society's work, whether it's funding scientific expeditions, supporting teachers in leading local fieldwork, inspiring and guiding young travellers, making the case for field visits within education policy, or encouraging everyone to enjoy and understand their local landscapes.

For many years, the Society has encouraged and enabled people to explore safely, to travel with a purpose and to study effectively in the field. The Society's Geography Outdoors team plays an important role in offering advice and guidance to young expeditioners planning field-based projects around the world. Courses, specialist seminars, online materials and the popular annual Explore expedition and fieldwork planning weekend in November are open to all. More than 100 leading field scientists and explorers provided inspiration, contacts and advice at last year's event.

The Society's support for field research is also reflected in its extensive grants programme, which provides funds

for more than 90 projects on a wide range of different subjects around the world each year, from declining amphibian populations to cultural change. The newest addition is the International Field Centre Grants, introduced to build research capacity and international links at field centres in poorer countries.

The Society also uses fieldwork and informed travel to raise aspirations and motivation. The Learning and Leading programme, for example, offers bursaries to A-level students for fieldwork summer schools in the UK or to plan and undertake meaningful gap-year travel. Fieldwork masterclass weekends are also held for teachers from schools in challenging circumstances, and fieldwork apprenticeships are available for first-year geography undergraduates.

For teachers, the Society has a wealth of online fieldwork resources that offer guidance on planning fieldwork and advice on health and safety and the use of technology, as well as many exemplar case studies, including topical resources linked to the Olympic games. Last year, the Society launched new 'From the field' resources to bring some of the latest field research results from projects funded by grants into the classroom to inspire, engage and inform teachers and pupils.

Recently, the Society has also greatly expanded its range of activities for geography enthusiasts. Two projects aimed at encouraging people to explore their own local area launched last year. Walk the World and Discovering Britain are fun, informative interactive walks that tell the geographical stories of an area. Walk the World has an Olympic theme, revolving around links with the 206 participating Olympic and Paralympic nations that can be found in the UK's landscapes, while Discovering Britain explores ten themes covering landscape, economy, society and history.

Fieldwork is at the heart of geography and is something that anyone and everyone can take part in and enjoy!



## ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY (WITH IBG)

### SELECTION OF EVENTS FOR JUNE

**12 June, 7.30pm**  
**Making geography programmes for television**  
**(Lecture, Norwich)**

BAFTA-winning filmmaker Len Brown, who has produced and directed programmes for the BBC, Granada and Channel 4, charts the challenges and delights of getting our terrific subject onto the screen for young people in schools, including exciting new markets for independent producers to develop.  
 For further details, visit [www.rgs.org/eastanglia](http://www.rgs.org/eastanglia)

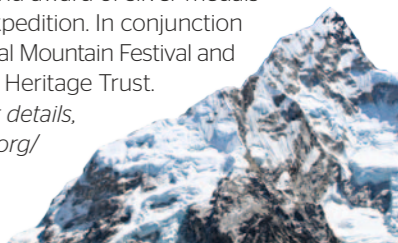
**17 June, 10.30am**  
**Cardiff Bay**  
**(Field visit, Cardiff)**

Dr Simon Jones leads a walking tour of Cardiff Bay and the Millennium Waterfront exploring the dramatic urban regeneration of the historic docks.  
 For further details, visit [www.rgs.org/westandsouthwales](http://www.rgs.org/westandsouthwales)



**20 June, 7pm**  
**Everest Olympians**  
**(Lecture, Kendal)**

In this Olympic year, Robin Ashcroft looks at mountaineering and exploration's link with the Olympics through the early Mount Everest expeditions and award of silver medals to the 1922 expedition. In conjunction with the Kendal Mountain Festival and the Mountain Heritage Trust.  
 For further details, visit [www.rgs.org/northwest](http://www.rgs.org/northwest)



**22 June - 19 August**  
**Travel Photographer of the Year**  
**(Exhibition, London)**

This year, the annual competition marks its tenth anniversary, so in addition to showing all the best images from the 2011 awards, along with historical travel photography from the Society's archives, additional exhibits are planned to celebrate.  
 Open seven days a week and bank holidays. More details at [www.tpoty.com](http://www.tpoty.com)



**23 June, 12.30pm-5.30pm**  
**Exhibition Road Music Day**  
**(Festival, London)**

The Society's headquarters in Lowther Lodge will be open to all for Exhibition Road's free annual music festival, which will feature sounds from around the world, with free performances and interactive workshops, including Indonesian gamelan workshops with the Royal College of Music and Chinatown Arts Space's New Music 20x12: XX/XY, including a youth junk band.  
 For further details, visit [www.exhibitionroad.com](http://www.exhibitionroad.com)

**29 June, 7.30pm**  
**1948 London Olympics Garden Party**  
**(Social event, London)**

Grab your ration books and put on your swing step shoes. Complimentary drink on arrival, followed by dinner and dancing until late. Organised by the Younger Members' Committee, all welcome.  
 Tickets: Early bird rate (book by 8 June) RGS-IBG members £40, non-members £45. Late bookings (from 9 June) RGS-IBG members £43, non-members £48. Dress code: 1948/sporting. Book online at [www.rgs.org/whatson](http://www.rgs.org/whatson) or call the Events Office on 020 7591 3100

The Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) is a leading world centre for geographers and geographical learning. One of our aims is to stimulate the awareness and enjoyment of the subject to a diverse range of people.

Geography is about the understanding of the people, places and environments of our world, the processes by which they are changing, and the interconnections between them - both locally and globally.

The Society carries out a wide range of activities to support its aims. We support research groups; promote geography within the national curriculum; produce scholarly publications; provide training in scientific field techniques and expeditions; offer information through our large map collection, library and picture library; and engage the wider public through our popular national lecture series.

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The Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) promotes enjoyment and understanding of our world. Membership is open to all. You may use geography in your profession, have a thirst for geographical knowledge or a passion for travel. Geographical is the Society's magazine and is available as part of membership. To find out more, call the Membership Office on 020 7591 3080



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